

ANNUAL PLAN 2016

United Network of Young Peacebuilders



Executive summary

UNOY Peacebuilders will begin the implementation of a new five-year strategic plan in 2016. Our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan defines four key action areas, under which each of our activities for 2016 fall. The action areas, and their respective activities for 2016 are:

1. To develop *young people's capacity* to lead conflict transformation processes and advocate for nonviolence and a Culture of Peace. In 2016 we will implement:

1.1 A *Training of Trainers* for working with conflict in Europe and the Mediterranean region

1.2 A *Training of Advocates*, training young peacebuilders on advocacy for youth participation in peacebuilding, with a focus on advocating towards European institutions.

1.3 A *Training for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders* from across the Caucasus and Europe to improve their competences in triggering youth-led peacebuilding processes on community level.

2. To ensure *meaningful youth participation* in issues of peace and security. In 2016:

2.1 The *Youth Advocacy Team* will continue to advocate for a UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security.

2.2 A new *European Youth Advocacy Team* will be set up, working towards the Council of Europe and the European Union.

2.3 *Regional focal points* will begin to coordinate youth advocacy for peace at the regional level, cooperating with regional advocacy working groups.

3. To facilitate the build-up of *member organisations' capacity* to mobilize youth as peacebuilders. In 2016:

3.1 The *Youth Impact* guidelines on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning will be published in partnership with several member organisations.

3.2 A *competence framework* for peace education will be completed together with our partners.

3.3 We will *conduct research* into what encourages young people to turn to either violence or peacebuilding together with member organisations in several conflict affected countries.

4. To strengthen UNOY Peacebuilders as a **global network** with a shared feeling of ownership. In 2016, we will organise:

4.1 A *Young Peacebuilders Forum* with a special focus on youth advocacy.

Introduction

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) is a global network of youth organizations committed to establishing sustainable, peaceful societies. Young people constitute half of the world's population, and we strongly believe in the importance of their involvement in societal change. This is why we aim to provide youth with the necessary means to contribute to peace.

UNOY Peacebuilders is a non-political, non-religious, non-governmental organization that supports young peacebuilders regardless of gender, ethnicity, social class, religion, or any other distinction. Our vision is of a world free from violence in which young people actively participate and lead in the peaceful transformation of conflicts and work towards cultivating a culture of peace.

2016 is the first year of the implementation of a new five-year strategic plan. Our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan defines four key action areas, which are reflected in the following Annual Plan:

1. To develop young people's capacity to lead conflict transformation processes and advocate for nonviolence and a Culture of Peace.
2. To ensure meaningful youth participation in issues of peace and security
3. To facilitate the build-up of member organisations' capacity to mobilize youth as peacebuilders.
4. To strengthen UNOY Peacebuilders as a global network with a shared feeling of ownership.

Through these four action areas, we work towards our vision of a world free from violence in which young people actively participate and lead in the peaceful transformation of conflicts and work towards cultivating a culture of peace.

This Annual Plan outlines the intended activities of UNOY Peacebuilders in 2016, with one section for each of the action areas of the Strategic Plan in addition to a final section detailing support activities of the International Secretariat such as monitoring and evaluation, fundraising and human resource development. The plan is intended to inform external partners and member organisations of UNOY Peacebuilders' upcoming activities and provides guidance to the staff and volunteers of the International Secretariat

Of particular note in 2016 is an increased emphasis on regional-level advocacy activities, building on the global advocacy carried out by UNOY Peacebuilders for the past years. In addition to setting up a system of Regional Focal Points and a European Youth Advocacy Team, we will train young people in Europe to advocate towards European institutions for youth participation in building peace and preventing violence.

In 2016 we will continue to work towards a stronger evidence base underlying the work of youth peace organisations through research into youth participation in violence and peacebuilding, as well as through the publication of a manual about monitoring, evaluation and learning in youth peace work based on research carried out in 2015. We will also continue to foster young people's competences to act as agents for peacebuilding and conflict transformation and to strengthen the global links between young peacebuilders across the world.

1. Young people's capacities

Central to our vision and mission are the role of youth as agents of change and as actors in transforming societies. We aim to empower young people to make use of their unique potential in transforming conflicts and to empower youth to advocate for peaceful and nonviolent change in their communities.

By changing the lens through which young people understand conflict, we can open new opportunities for sustainable change by learning how to creatively and constructively deal with conflict in a way that helps us develop as individuals and communities. With understanding conflict comes the need to develop skills and competences to be able to deal with and transform it, for young people to act as agents for conflict transformation. Young people also need to be able to voice their opinions and concerns in peacebuilding, and highlight and give visibility to their experience and contribution in the field. Through developing their capacities as advocates for peace, young peacebuilders share existing tools and resources on advocacy, learn from each other's experiences on the ground, and improve strategies for effective advocacy for peace as a collective.

In 2016, we will implement three different types of activities to develop young people's capacities: A training of trainers for conflict transformation in Europe and the Mediterranean region, a peacebuilding sensitivity training for young people and youth workers with a focus on the Caucasus and a training of European youth as advocates for peace.

Activities in 2016

1.1 Working with Conflict around the Mediterranean

Type of activity: Training of trainers

Working with Conflict is a training series by UNOY Peacebuilders focused on working with young people and youth peace organisations to strengthen their capacities as trainers in conflict transformation trainings and other activities. In 2016 the Working with Conflict training will focus on Europe and the

Mediterranean region, intercultural dialogue and young people's active citizenship as a means of addressing conflict.

The training course will begin with a 5 week online training period, followed by a face-to-face training. After the face-to-face training, participants will be supported in designing their own multiplier trainings about youth addressing conflict which they will then implement in their own communities.

By training young people in multiplier positions as agents for conflict transformation, this project will empower more young people to play a direct role in fostering a culture of peace, improving social cohesion and preventing the occurrence and recurrence of violent conflicts. In doing so we will contribute to a long-term decrease in violence by fostering a paradigm of non-violence and a culture of peace among young people.

1.2 Bringing Peace to European Policy

Type of activity: Training of advocates

The purpose of this training of advocates is to build the skills and knowledge of young peacebuilders on European advocacy on youth participation in peacebuilding and CVE. The training aims to link young people's peace activism with advocacy at the European level. It will be an opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences and approaches on advocacy. By developing their skills and knowledge, participants can strengthen and expand the advocacy activities of their organizations. The training will use participatory methodologies and will include workshops, lessons learnt from the Youth Advocacy Team, expert input from civil society and simulated advocacy meetings.

The focus will be on advocacy on a European (meaning Council of Europe and European Union) level, but in such a way that it is tangible for the participants, locally applicable and that the skills could be applied also at a local or national level. How to build and advocacy strategy will be central to the training. The training will function as a co-creation session, where participants all contribute to creating a solid advocacy strategy for the European UNOY Network and for UNOY's European Youth Advocacy Team. The strategy will consist of both an outreach component and of a component on advocating with policy makers.

Two advocacy methods will be central to the training: online campaigning and advocating with policy makers.

1.3 Peacebuilding in the Caucasus

Type of activity: Training of youth workers and youth leaders

In Peacebuilding in the Caucasus UNOY Peacebuilders will work closely with our member organisation, the Academy for Peace and Development, to bring together youth workers and young leaders from across the Caucasus as well as from other European countries to improve their competences in triggering youth-led peace-building processes on community level in their countries.

Participants in this training series, which will take place in the second half of 2016, will participate in two face-to-face training courses strengthening their capacities in working with young people on peacebuilding initiatives in their community and to identify possible areas for peacebuilding interventions.

2. Raising youth voices

We bring the voices of young peacebuilders to the attention of international policy-makers, advocating for increased youth participation in issues of peace and security, and a culture of peace. The focus of our advocacy work is towards the United Nations, as resolutions and policies developed at the UN set a global standard for peace and development and an international policy framework on youth, peace and security is vital to keep national governments and other actors accountable towards young people. In 2016 we will add a regional focus to our advocacy activities with a European Youth Advocacy Team and regional advocacy focal points in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the MENA region. We will continue to have a strong representation towards UN bodies in Geneva, where we advocate for a Culture of Peace and peace education.

In addition to the work done by UNOY Peacebuilders at the international level, individual member organizations efforts advocating at the local, regional and national levels are crucial to translating international policies to local realities. Most UNOY Peacebuilders members are engaged in advocating for peace locally, and significant numbers of members work at both national and regional levels to make the voices of young peacebuilders heard

Activities in 2016

2.1 Youth Advocacy Team

Type of activity: Series of advocacy missions

The Youth Advocacy Team (YAT) is a group of committed young peacebuilders from UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations. They carry out advocacy work, primarily towards the United Nations, for the recognition and participation of young people in peacebuilding processes and for the protection of young people in conflict. While the focus of the YAT is international, YAT members also work together with the UNOY secretariat to support UNOY members to strengthen national and local advocacy that contribute to the achievement of YAT's objective.

The main aim of the YAT is to guarantee a meaningful role for youth in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, for youth and youth organisations in promoting peace and nonviolence, and mobilising youth for post-conflict reconstruction.

In 2016, the Youth Advocacy Team will continue to work towards the adoption of a UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security. In order to do so they will carry out a minimum of three advocacy missions to the UN headquarters in New York.

2.2 European Youth Advocacy Team

Type of activity: Series of advocacy missions

In 2016 we will expand our youth advocacy activities to the regional level. In Europe this will be done through setting up a European Youth Advocacy Team (E-YAT) modeled on, and functioning within, the global Youth Advocacy Team. It will advocate policy makers and campaign among young people in Europe for the positive role young people can have in peacebuilding and CVE.

The long-term objective of the E-YAT is to achieve policy changes that see young people as central and positive actors on peace and security issues. The short-term objective is to sensitize European policy makers about the positive role young people are playing in peace and security and to gather the voices of young Europeans on matters of peace and security.

The E-YAT will carry out two advocacy missions in 2016. One mission will be to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg during a session of the Parliamentary Assembly, the other will be to European Union institutions in Brussels. In both advocacy missions the E-YAT will aim to hold policy makers accountable on issues of youth, peacebuilding and violence prevention and to ensure that European bodies working on countering violent extremism do not see young people only as a threat but also as key stakeholders in building peaceful societies.

2.3 Regional Focal Points

Type of activity: Online and face-to-face meetings

In 2016 we will set up regional focal points to coordinate advocacy efforts by UNOY Peacebuilders members in Africa, Asia, the MENA region and Latin America. These focal points will work together with regional working groups, the Youth Advocacy Team, the International Steering Group and with support from the International Secretariat to jointly create regional strategies for advocacy in connection to the broader advocacy strategies of UNOY Peacebuilders, targeting in particular regional inter-governmental bodies.

The regional focal points will also arrange quarterly online meetings with young people from the region, facilitating the build-up of broad coalitions around youth participation in peacebuilding and linking global, regional and local advocacy work.

3. Building up member organisations

As a network of youth organisations, we face common organisational challenges related to issues such as fundraising, organisational learning and assessing the impact of our work. We work together to strengthen each other's organisational capacity through activities coordinated by the International Secretariat and International Steering Group as well as through activities implemented by UNOY members in direct cooperation with each other.

In 2016 we will continue work on two sets of practical guidelines for youth peace organisations in a cooperation between the International Secretariat and a number of member organisations. We will publish guidelines on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning processes for youth peace organisations, based on the findings of the Youth Impact research in 2015. We will also continue the development of a comprehensive competence framework for peace education, a process which begun in 2015 and will be completed in 2016. Finally, we will conduct research into which factors either enable or hinder youth participation in peacbuilding in cooperation with Radboud University.

Activities in 2016

3.1 Amplifying Youth Impact

Type of activity: Publication

The International Secretariat will cooperate with five UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations in Europe to produce and publish guidelines on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) in youth peace organisations in 2016. The guidelines will be based on research carried out in 2015 and aim to offer youth organisations working on peace education a model of how to embed MEL within their structures and processes in order to assess and strengthen the impact of their projects. The MEL guidelines will provide youth organisations with mechanisms to take a more strategic approach to the work

they do, increase their organisational capacity and enhance the quality of the non-formal peace education they are offering.

The first draft of the guidelines is planned to be finalized in the first quarter of 2016. The draft will in a pilot phase be circulated and tested internally by the partners of the Youth Impact project as well as by a number of youth organizations outside of this partnership. Based on the feedback from the organisations taking part in this pilot phase, a final version of the guidelines will be produced and launched in the second quarter of 2016.

3.2 Peace Education Competence Framework

Type of activity: Publication

The development of a competence framework for peace education will continue in 2016, in partnership with several European youth peace organisations active in the field of peace education. The formalised framework on peace education is meant to be used as a method to enhance the quality of the non-formal learning of how to know, how to be, how to do, how to live together and other capabilities in peaceful transformation of conflicts. The final version of the framework will include mechanisms for quality assurance of non-formal peace education such as evaluation indicators, assessment methods and educational guidelines.

UNOY Peacebuilders' International Secretariat has been an active member of the research team laying the groundwork for the competence framework in 2015. The framework itself along with accompanying documentation will be drafted in 2016 and published in August 2016. This will be an extremely important tool for all organisations working on peace education, including UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations and the International Secretariat.

3.3 Understanding the role of youth groups building peace

Type of activity: Research

Youth are often perceived as victims, agents of violence or beneficiaries in contexts of fragility. While these negative or passive roles have been documented, their positive roles have not been thoroughly examined nor

understood. This project will research youth positive social and political engagement in contexts of fragility including Afghanistan, Libya, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. It will explore what factors enable or hinder young people to actively engage in peacebuilding activities in these four countries. The research will investigate both formalised youth organisations as well as more informal groupings, using in-depth interviews to examine young people's experiences of participation.

The project will be implemented in partnership between UNOY Peacebuilders' member organisations in the aforementioned countries, the International Secretariat, and Radboud University. The project will train youth activists to act as field researchers, conduct parallel field research in the different contexts mentioned above, and gather researchers and advisors to analyse findings jointly with the support of researchers from Radboud University. On the basis of these findings, UNOY Peacebuilders will issue policy recommendations on creating an enabling environment for youth participation in peacebuilding activities.

4. Strengthening the network

As the leading global network of youth peace organisations, UNOY Peacebuilders draws its strengths at the local, national, regional and global levels through the work of its members. Members of the network are independent and focus on diverse areas of peacebuilding including human rights, conflict transformation, gender equality, environmental sustainability and children's and women's rights. This makes it vital to ensure that the members have a shared sense of being a community.

This sense of community and joint ownership of the network is achieved by effective communication and representation mechanisms. Face-to-face networking opportunities are vital to foster network cohesion and enable young peacebuilders to work together, relate to and support each other. Clear regional representational mechanisms enable UNOY Peacebuilders to act as a global network and the International Steering Group ensures accountability between member organisations and the International Secretariat.

In 2016 we will organise the third Young Peacebuilders Forum in Europe. We will also seek funding for similar activities in other regions. The International Steering Group will conduct regular online meetings in 2016, monitoring the International Secretariats' work on behalf of the member organisations. They will have one on-site meeting in The Hague in the second half of the year.

Activities in 2016

4.1 Young Peacebuilders Forum

Type of activity: Forum

The Young Peacebuilders Forum 2016, which carries the subtitle Youth Policy and Peace, is an event bringing together 45 young people active in peacebuilding from across Europe for 4 days where they will discuss the links between policy and peace.

The Young Peacebuilders Forum will build on UNOY's experience of organising events with a similar structure in 2014 and 2015, but as with previous years its

thematic focus will be unique. The Young Peacebuilders Forum 2016 will be very outward looking. The theme of the forum will be how youth organisations can ensure that policy is designed in a way which enables young people to play an active role in building peace and countering violent extremism.

5. International Secretariat

In addition to implementing the projects and activities described in the previous sections, the International Secretariat carries out a number of supporting activities.

5.1 Monitoring, evaluation and learning

All projects and activities implemented by UNOY Peacebuilders are monitored in accordance with our monitoring and evaluation checklist. Additionally, the capacity development programme as a whole is evaluated through a survey of all participants in capacity development activities titled the UNOY Participants Review. Participants in capacity development activities organised in 2014 will be surveyed in the UNOY Participants Review in 2016.

We will conduct a thorough review of our monitoring and evaluation practices in the second half of 2016, on the basis of the outcomes of the Youth Impact guidelines on monitoring, evaluation and learning in youth peace organisations. Of particular importance will be further embedding organisational learning into all our structures.

Monitoring of the network as a whole is done through the Annual Impact Review, a survey of all member organisations. In 2016 we will conduct an Annual Impact review for 2015.

5.2 Fundraising

Fundraising remains a significant concern for UNOY Peacebuilders and a significant task of the International Secretariat. The secretariat raises funds for joint network activities in accordance with the multiannual strategic plan. Additionally the secretariat assists member organisations in their fundraising, highlighting relevant funding calls and providing advice on funding applications.

5.3 Human resource development

The International Secretariat is composed of a small team of staff, volunteers and interns. The development of the capacities of this team is very important to the continuous good functioning of the network. In 2016 we will organise at least four

internal trainings for staff, volunteers and interns, and continue to provide opportunities for participation in external capacity development activities.